

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A method for retrieval of user passwords in a computer network, comprising:

receiving, in a database server, a user identifier and user password from a client computing device via an application login;

identifying an application associated with the application login; and

identifying an application password, associated with the identified application and the user identifier, from a backend database associated with the database server, wherein the backend database stores entries for each of a plurality of registered users, and wherein the entries for the plurality of registered users include the user identifiers and application passwords for each application for which a user is registered, wherein at least one entry of the entries for each of the plurality of registered users has a plurality of different user identifiers and corresponding passwords, the plurality of different user identifiers and corresponding passwords comprising one user identifier and password for each application of a plurality of applications for which a user associated with the entry is registered.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein identifying the application password includes using a referral object that references a storage location in the backend database where the user identifiers and application passwords associated with the received user identifier are stored.

21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the database server is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) database server.

22. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
providing the application password and the user password to a security service,
wherein the security service performs authentication based on the application password
and the user password.
23. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the user identifier and user password are
encrypted by the client computing device and passed to a secure layer, and wherein the
application associated with the application login is identified by the secure layer prior to
transmission of the encrypted user identifier and user password to the database server.
24. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the entries for each of the plurality of
users include one or more of the following attributes: a full name of the user attribute, a
common name of the user attribute, a social security number of the user attribute, a serial
number associated with the user attribute, an electronic mail address of the user attribute,
a user identifier attribute, and a password attribute.
25. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the application password is a referral
object that references a location in a central database where the user's user identifiers and
passwords for a plurality of applications are stored.
26. (New) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for retrieval
of user passwords in a computer network, comprising:
instructions for receiving, in a database server, a user identifier and user password
from a client computing device via an application login;
instructions for identifying an application associated with the application login;
and
instructions for identifying an application password, associated with the identified
application and the user identifier, from a backend database associated with the database
server, wherein the backend database stores entries for each of a plurality of registered
users, and wherein the entries for the plurality of registered users include the user
identifiers and application passwords for each application for which a user is registered,

wherein at least one entry of the entries for each of the plurality of registered users has a plurality of different user identifiers and corresponding passwords, the plurality of different user identifiers and corresponding passwords comprising one user identifier and password for each application of a plurality of applications for which a user associated with the entry is registered.

27. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the instructions for identifying the application password include instructions for using a referral object that references a storage location in the backend database where the user identifiers and application passwords associated with the received user identifier are stored.

28. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the database server is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) database server.

29. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising:
instructions for providing the application password and the user password to a security service, wherein the security service performs authentication based on the application password and the user password.

30. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the user identifier and user password are encrypted by the client computing device and passed to a secure layer, and wherein the application associated with the application login is identified by the secure layer prior to transmission of the encrypted user identifier and user password to the database server.

31. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the entries for each of the plurality of users include one or more of the following attributes: a full name of the user attribute, a common name of the user attribute, a social security number of the user attribute, a serial number associated with the user attribute, an electronic mail address of the user attribute, a user identifier attribute, and a password attribute.

32. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the application password is a referral object that references a location in a central database where the user's user identifiers and passwords for a plurality of applications are stored.

33. (New) A system for retrieval of user passwords in a computer network, comprising:

a processor;

a network interface coupled to the processor; and

a backend database coupled to the processor, wherein the processor receives, via the network interface, a user identifier and user password from a client computing device via an application login, identifies an application associated with the application login, and identifies an application password, associated with the identified application and the user identifier, from the backend database coupled to the processor, wherein the backend database stores entries for each of a plurality of registered users, and wherein the entries for the plurality of registered users include the user identifiers and application passwords for each application for which a user is registered, wherein at least one entry of the entries for each of the plurality of registered users has a plurality of different user identifiers and corresponding passwords, the plurality of different user identifiers and corresponding passwords comprising one user identifier and password for each application of a plurality of applications for which a user associated with the entry is registered.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the processor identifies the application password by using a referral object that references a storage location in the backend database where the user identifiers and application passwords associated with the received user identifier are stored.

35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the processor provides the application password and the user password to a security service, and wherein the security service performs authentication based on the application password and the user password.

36. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the user identifier and user password are encrypted by the client computing device and passed to a secure layer, and wherein the application associated with the application login is identified by the secure layer prior to receipt of the encrypted user identifier and user password at the processor.

37. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the entries for each of the plurality of users include one or more of the following attributes: a full name of the user attribute, a common name of the user attribute, a social security number of the user attribute, a serial number associated with the user attribute, an electronic mail address of the user attribute, a user identifier attribute, and a password attribute.

38. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the application password is a referral object that references a location in a central database where the user's user identifiers and passwords for a plurality of applications are stored.